



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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May 20, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

### **AUTHORIZATION TO USE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTAL TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS (3 VOTES)**

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

- (1) Approve and authorize the use of \$90,650 from the Information Technology Fund (ITF) to support an information technology project proposed by the Human Relations Commission
- (2) Approve and authorize the use of \$156,500 from the Information Technology Fund (ITF) to support an information technology project proposed by the Department of Health Services.

#### **PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

In their April 14, 2003 meeting, the ITF Executive Committee recommended support of two (2) departmental information technology funds projects, to include: a (1) Database Upgrade Project proposed by the Human Relations Commission; and (2) an Internet-Based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Application Integration Project proposed by the Department of Health Services (DHS).

Your Board's approval of the recommended action will provide funding in the amount of \$247,150 in support of these projects.

## **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The ITF project proposals support the County's Strategic Plan Goals for:

<b>ITF Recommended Project</b>	<b>County Strategic Plan Goal</b>
Database Upgrade Project	Goal 4: Organization Effectiveness
Health Services Internet-Based GIS Application Integration	Goal 1: Customer Services Goal 3: Organizational Effectiveness Goal 5: Children's and Families' Well-Being Goal 7: Health and Mental Health

## **JUSTIFICATION**

In their regularly scheduled meeting held April 14, 2003, the ITF Executive Committee recommended Board approval of two (2) departmental information technology projects.

### **Human Relations Commission/Database Upgrade**

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) proposes to upgrade and consolidate its Microsoft Access (MS) Database. Presently, HRC supports several separate databases that connect various individuals and organizations around the County to services delivered or administered by the Commission, and services delivered amongst each other. All of the databases were developed using MS Access, making the administration of the databases very cumbersome because data is repeatedly stored in multiple locations. With data stored in multiple locations, it takes the HRC longer to develop new database projects. In addition, the MS Access software has limited security capabilities and recoverability in the event of a disaster. Thus, HRC proposes to upgrade their infrastructure to develop a unified database to reduce redundant information and duplication of efforts.

The Human Relations Commission is requesting \$90,650 for this project.

### **DHS/Internet-Based GIS Application Integration**

In response to the Board's policy regarding website links containing advertising, the County deployed an enterprise GIS mapping and routing server that was made available for all County departments to use instead of commercially-available mapping and street direction services that contained advertising. Further enhancements to the functionality of the system provided radius search capabilities to the closest location of a selected resource through the implementation of the Sex Offender Locator website.

Your Board expressed interest in providing the public with information on the status of hospital and clinic closings, and alternative sites available within a constituent's area. This project integrates and expands three (3) of DHS' existing GIS public access Internet applications with the County's shared GIS mapping and routing environment. These applications include the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, the Health Services Directory of Programs and Hospitals, and Safe Havens.

This project also involves the conversion of the County-owned Infoline-LA database to the GIS spatial environment. The Infoline-LA database contains detailed information on 23,000+ public and non-profit health and human service agencies within Los Angeles County.

The total cost of this project is \$181,500. The ITF funding request is \$156,500; the DHS will fund the remaining \$25,000. Because of the scope of this project, the CIO will provide the overall administrative, technical and management support. DHS will provide oversight of the applications development phase of the project.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Upon approval by your Board, \$247,150 will be awarded from the ITF to support the above-recommended projects.

HRC will utilize existing internal resources to support on-going maintenance costs associated with their database upgrade.

The Chief Administrative Office currently manages the County's enterprise GIS environment. DHS will contribute \$25,000 towards the implementation cost of integrating their three (3) GIS applications, and has committed to fund the prorated share of ongoing enterprise hosting, licensing, and maintenance costs applicable to its GIS applications, estimated to cost approximately \$15,000 per year.

There is no other fiscal impact.

#### **FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENT**

There are no legal requirements.

## **IMPACT OF CURRENT SERVICES**

### **Database Upgrade Project**

Under this project, the HRC will migrate all of its existing databases to SQL Server and consolidate as much redundant data as possible. Some of database conversions include, but are not limited to, the Hate Crime Tracking Database, Human Relations Resources Database, and a Contact Database. The Hate Crime Database ensures the most effective use of agency resources towards the implementation of hate crimes prevention programs in LA County. The Human Resources Database is the only County site that provides human relations resources to community-based organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions throughout LA County. The Contact Database contains contact information to individuals, organizations, etc. that are integral to the Commission in carrying out their mission work. The upgrade will allow independent contractors working offsite, to have secured and encrypted access to the data via the Internet; the migration to a SQL Server database will allow for more effective communication of information to the appropriate people and networks.

The upgrade also includes migration to Windows 2000 and Exchange 2000, allowing for increased database security protection (virus protection and personal firewall software), and deployment of Microsoft XP Professional on all agency desktops.

Overall, this project provides the HRC with the needed infrastructure to support current and new database changes and improvements, reduce network support costs, increase system stability and performance, and increase staff productivity; and aligns with the County's strategic directions for information technology.

### **DHS GIS Applications Integration**

This project integrates three (3) DHS applications; the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, Health Services Directory of Programs & Hospitals, and Safe Havens, to the shared County GIS environment. DHS proposes that the migration of these systems will:

- Reduce operational costs,
- Improve public accessibility to critical health service information, and
- Eliminate the need to use advertising supported by mapping and street direction services.

The Child Health and Disability Prevention Program will allow the public to find the location of providers that are closest to their homes or workplace. It will also provide detailed information regarding the hours of service, address, and phone numbers, and driving or public transportation directions to the selected program provider.

The Health Services Directory will allow the public to locate DHS programs, clinics and hospitals closest to their homes, and will also identify those facilities that are closed (and provide the closest alternative location and driving directions to the County facility or non-profit agency listed in the Infoline-LA database).

Safe Havens are designated hospitals and fire stations where unwanted newborns can be left without fear of prosecution. The migration to the GIS application platform will provide the public with the closest Safe Haven location (and provide driving or public transportation direction to the facility).

In addition to the above programs, a general map request utility will be developed to generate map/driving directions based on supplied address information.

### **CONCLUSION**

Your Board's approval of the recommended actions will authorize the use of ITF funds in the amount of \$247,150 to support the above recommended technology projects.

Respectfully submitted,



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JWF:JEW  
YD:ygd

Attachment

c: David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Robin Toma, Human Relations Commission  
Jonathan E. Fielding, Director, Public Health Programs & Services  
Chiu Lee, CAO Budget Analyst  
Chair, Information Systems Commission